

**Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes
December 2, 2015**

Opened Meeting: 3:05 PM.

Roll Call: Mary Ann Nahf, Deirdre Strachan, Ann Nemrow, Sue Vachon, Burr Taylor, Paul Ciesielski, Anne Perry, Wendy Batson, resident.

Approval of 11/18 Minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Announcements:

CPIC:

B. Taylor reminded the Commission that the 1993 Comp. Plan is past due for an update but requires significant time from a planner to guide the CPIC Committee, more time than is presently covered by the consultant planner.

Budget Advisory Committee: (BAC)

B. Taylor reported that the BAC is in favor of protecting land along the Otter Brook corridor but has some reservations about the manner and amount of the Town's share toward HHLT's acquisition. This is a reflection on a recent State Law LDI that requires towns to remain compliant with their set budgets. Consensus is expected at the next meeting.

Winter Moth:

The Forestry Division of ME Dept. Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Services is conducting a statewide survey on locating Winter Moth infestations around the State. The agency is seeking help from the public to report their locations.

Updates

Pesticide Control and Fertilizer Use Ordinance:

Q & A Sheet:

- A. Perry is working on a list of safer alternatives to pesticides and will email members before the next meeting.

First Public Hearing of the Ordinance Proposal:

- 12/9/2015 at 6:30 PM.

January Issue of Anchor by 12/17:

- Amber Skinner, writer for the Harpswell Anchor, will interview M. Nahf on the proposed pesticide ordinance using a Q&A format.

List of Products Affected by the New Ordinance:

- S. Vachon will continue to expand her inventory on store products proven unsafe to aquatic organisms and record pictures of the labels for later use.
- W. Batson volunteered to check with the Maine Organization of Farmers and Growers Assoc. (MOFGA) for their list of environmental hazards and safe alternatives.

Notifications to Local Arborists:

M. Nahf will send copies of the proposed ordinance to three local arborists for their response prior to the 12/9 public hearing.

Discussion and Additional Changes to the Draft:

The following changes were made...

- Section 1. Purpose. Explain why the fertilizer is included in the ordinance (Contamination from runoff of nitrogen.) Replace “insecticide” with “pesticide and incorporate ... “for public and private lands.”
- Section 2. Definitions. Change Insect Growth Regulator. Add a definition for Pesticide, elaborate on Weed and Feed, a generic term that contains a combination of fertilizer and pesticide.
- Section 4 (c). Add ...”and other pesticides.”
- Section 5. Non-agricultural Fertilizer Use Limitation. Reword to clarify the 25’ setback from the water in the 250’ Shoreline zone.

Inventory Changes to the New Draft Ordinance:

- Itemize the new changes - expansion to include fertilizers, limit to licensed applicators, include the banning of neonicotinoids. M. Nahf to revise the list and submit to members for comments.

Adjourned: 4:50 PM.

Meetings: 12/16 at 3:00 PM. January 2016 meetings to be determined.

Scribe: Ann Nemrow